(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the funds or to give assistance for those or new sanskrit degree colleges in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) The University Grants Commission is not providing assistance to any sanskrit degree college in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Commission has recently decided that single faculty colleges teaching classical languages viz. Sanskrit, Pali etc., which have been recognized under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act and are declared fit to receive Central assistance under Section 12-B of the UGC Act will also be eligible for development assistance during the 7th Plan. The colleges in Andhra Pradesh if they satisfy the above mentioned criteria, would also be eligible for such assistance.

Computerisation of passport offices in Andhra Pradesh

1922. SHRI GOPALA RAO, RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of applications for passports opening at Hyderabad and other passport offices in Andhra Pradesh up to the 31st March, 1989 ;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in issuing passports ;

(c) what steps have been taken to issue passports in the prescribed time limit at these offices ; and

(d) what are the details of the passport offices which have been computerised and are likely to be computerised in Andhra Pradesh during the current plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Total pendency as on 31st March, 1989 in Passport Office, Hyderabad is 42,705. There is no other Passport Office in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Delay in the issue of Passports is mainly due to delay in receipt of Police verification reports or incomplete information provided by the applicants, and a sharp increase in the applications in the Passport Office.

(c) Concerned authorities have been reminded to expedite police verification reports.

(d) The State of Andhra Pradesh has only one passport Office at Hyderabad. Computer site has been prepared for installation of computer.

Commercialisation of agro-aviation wing

1923. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Vayudoot's project to commercialise the operation of its agro-aviation wing, is being resisted by their employees; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Representations have been received against transfer of agro-aviation activities to Vayudoot;

(b) The decision to transfer agro-aviation activities to Vayudoot was taken side after due consideration of option available.

Model Railway Station in Goa

1924. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to be state :

(a) whether in view of International tourist importance of Goa, Government would reconsider to have a Model Railway Station either at Margao or Vasco-de-Gama in Goa; and

(b) if so, by when the work is likely to start on this Model station in Goa ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) It is not proposed, at present, to add any more stations to the list of 67 Model Stations already approved. However, every effort will be made by the Railway to ensure that adequate amenities, as per norms, are provided at Margao and Vasco-de-Gama railway stations to handle the anticipated traffic, including tourist traffic, at these stations.

Working of the Metro in Calcutta

1925. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made about the working of the Metro in Calcutta; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only part sections of the Calcutta Metro Railway Project, namely, Dum-Dum-Belgachia and Esplanade-Tollyganj have been opened to traffic so far. Metro services on these sections are working satisfactorily and the people of Calcutta have been highly appreciative of the same. Full impact of the working of Metro-Railway will, however, be known only when the rest of the section from Esplanade to Belgachia is completed.

Electric locomotive technology in the Railways

1926. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a bid to catch up with the latest trends in the electric locomotive technology Indian Railways plans to import 3 phase AC motor drive electric locomotives; and

(b) if so, what is the total number of said locomotives and what would be the total cost of expenditure involved and to what exent those would be helpful in raising the goods trains traffic and passenger trains?

THE DEPTUY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The total number of locomotives planned to be imported is 40 (30 freight and 10 passenger type).

(ii) The Commercial offers are yet to be opened and hence the costs are not available.